Imperial college Early Years 8 Princes Gardens London SW7 1NA

***COVID 19- Infection Control Safety Measures***

Imperial College Early Years are implementing rigorous infection control measures to ensure our environment remains safe and healthy.

Due to COVID-19 we have set out current guidance to assist and support our staff and parents and will adhere to the following;

* [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1048656/20220120_22nd_EY_guidance.pdf) (Updated 20th January 2022)
* Imperial College’s Early Years’ Education Centres Infection Control Guidance Policy (Updated 20th January 2022)
* DfE and PHE Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak (Updated 5th January 2022)
* DfE Safe working in education, childcare and children’s social care including the use of PPE (Updated 20th July 2021)
* PHE COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings (Updated19th July 2021)
* Early Years’ Administering Medicine and Care of Sick Children Policy (Updated 20th January 2022).

***Training***

* All staff members will be trained to have a clear understanding of their role in preventing the spread of infection (including COVID-19) through a system of controls. These controls are grouped into prevention and response to any infection. Prevention includes implementing excellent hygiene practices including:

1. Handwashing
2. Social distancing
3. Sterilising toys and other equipment
4. Washing bedding
5. Cleaning outdoor and indoor environment
6. Illnesses
7. Supporting children’s personal hygiene
8. The importance of good ventilation and maximising this where possible and safe to do so
9. The wearing of PPE and face coverings

* Staff will receive appropriate training on COVID-19 guidance and all our updated policies and procedures.
* Children will be educated using age and developmentally appropriate ways to encourage them to follow social distancing, handwashing, using and flushing the toilet and other excellent hygiene practices, through games, songs, and stories.

***Protection of those most vulnerable children (e.g. underlying health conditions)***

* Staff will receive information from the family, follow doctor’s advice and risk assess for what is best for the child and whether they should attend the Early Years
* Staff will update health care/EHC plans, agree this with the parents and filter this down to the team

***Hand Washing***

* Hand washing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting, respiratory disease, and COVID-19.
* Staff will wash their hands for 20 seconds and more regularly;

1. on arrival at work, after their lunch breaks or entering any new room
2. after they blow their nose, cough or sneeze
3. after wiping the children’s noses
4. after using the toilet, nappy changing/toileting
5. before eating or handling food
6. After any close contact with a child
7. after and between activities, including outdoor play
8. when hands are visibly dirty

* Staff will support children to wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap,

1. on arrival at the nursery,
2. after outdoor play,
3. before meals and snack time,
4. after using the toilet or having nappy changed
5. After blowing their nose, cough or sneeze
6. After and between activities, including outdoor play
7. When hands are visibly dirty

* We will use liquid soap, warm water and paper towels.
* Hand sanitisers will be filled and can also be used by adults only but is not a replacement for thorough handwashing
* Staff and children’s cuts and open wounds will be covered with appropriate covering to avoid infection

***Social Distancing***

We no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep groups apart as much as possible. We should make sure our contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) cover the possibility that it may become necessary to reintroduce keeping groups apart for a temporary period. Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of keeping groups apart should not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education and care

This means:

* measured lines to ensure children keep apart when lining up
* staggered times for outdoor play to allow less children in the garden
* in the am and pm limit traffic in the building, children will be collected and dropped off to their parents by staff at designated areas from the front doors of both buildings
* during mealtimes children to be spaced and kept apart
* toileting, nappy changing will be done separately and reintroducing of toothbrushing will be risk assessed
* staggering of staff lunch break times
* avoiding staff and parent gatherings
* reducing the number of rooms and areas in use; designated areas will be clearly identified
* Staff meetings will take place online, separately or in bubbles
* on staff lunch breaks to continue following COVID-19 guidelines for social-distancing ensure that all items used are thoroughly washed e.g., mugs, cutlery.

**Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated**

Spaces and areas are well ventilated when occupied and the windows and doors are opened, providing it is safe to do so whilst maintaining a comfortable temperature. CO2 monitors have been provided to the Early Years setting, so staff can quickly identify where ventilation needs to be improved.

***Catering***

The EYEC will monitor delivery, storage and movement of food ensuring that cleaning protocols are followed to maintain safety, The EYEC will provide lunches, teas, light snacks, milk and water for the children. Food, cups, cutlery and plates will not be shared.

***Travelling***

Staff and Parents should read COVID-19 Safer Travel Guidance for Passengers

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

* When travelling keep 2 m distance or as much distance as you can.
* Wear a face covering, this not necessary for children under the age of 11.
* When pressing buttons use alternative methods like a tissue which can be properly disposed of in a bin, use hand sanitiser or immediately wash hands

***Holidays***

* Staff to discuss planned holidays with management. Parents will inform management of holiday arrangements, including destination and return dates to the UK. On return staff and parents will follow current government guidance on travelling and quarantine periods. <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

**Visitors**

* There will be occasions when visitors to EYEC are necessary (maintenance or statutory purposes) but these visits will be kept to a minimum. A record of visitors will be kept supporting NHS Test and Trace.

**Please refer to the Early Years Infection Guidance Policy for:**

***Cleaning, Laundry and the Measures Taken to Prevent the Risk of Infections***

As we work towards ensuring that the risk of the virus spreading is as low as possible all our cleaning regimes will be managed more frequently, including;

* Children and adults will flush with toilets with the lids down and touch points will be disinfected after each use by adults
* Wiping down of surfaces with anti-bac (D10) and sanitising solution
* Disposable colour coded cloths used for different areas-any reusable cloths will be sterilised daily in individual buckets for each coded cloth
* Mops, brooms, dustpan, brushes, floors should all be disinfected daily
* Individual provision of and regular washing bedding, sanitising cots and rest mats
* Regular areas that are touched such as taps, toilet handles, green door release buttons, hand gel dispensers
* Cleaning rota/schedule will be used for regular and frequent cleaning of bannisters, door handles, telephones, intercoms, equipment and areas indoors and outdoors, toys, beakers.
* Additional resource will be provided to support the team in maintaining cleaning schedules
* Use of electrostatic spray machine for use on large areas and soft furnishing
* Regular cleaning of bathroom areas disinfectant spray will be available in the adult toilets to be used after use
* The cleaning of hands before and after touching face coverings and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use.

**If a child is showing any form of COVID-19 symptoms, to avoid the spread of the infection within the centre, we will refer to our current Administering Medicine and Care of Sick Children (updated version) where the Head of the Early Years or Senior Management will make the decision for the children to be collected. It is vital to eliminate the infection and cases of infection will be judged individually.**

**Updated 20th January 2022**